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## **BENNETT INTRODUCES MEASURE TO MINT COINS FOR 2002 WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES**

*Senate coin bills require 67 cosponsors, Bennett bill enjoys 74 at introduction*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Senator Bob Bennett (R-Utah) today introduced legislation to authorize the minting of a commemorative coin for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City.

"Like the postage stamps issued to highlight events of the Games, and the paraphernalia sold in gift shops around the world, the Olympic coin has become an integral part of our Olympic scrapbook," said Bennett, noting that a commemorative coin program has been part of every U.S. Olympic Games since 1952. "These souvenirs pay honor to the breathtaking skill and patriotism of our outstanding Olympic athletes, but are also part of a responsible program which will help offset the costs of putting on the Games."

The 2002 Salt Lake Olympic Winter Games Commemorative Coin Act authorizes the production of 400,000 silver dollar coins and 80,000 gold five dollar coins. Incurring no net cost to the taxpayer or the federal government, proceeds from the coin program will be equally divided between the Salt Lake Organizing Committee (SLOC) and the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC). The coins will be sold domestically and internationally and can be ordered in October of 2001 for delivery after January 1, 2002.

Bennett noted the Citizens' Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee (CCCAC), representing the nation's coin collectors and numismatic professionals, has been an integral part in developing the program for the 2002 coin. As a result of collaborations between CCCAC, SLOC and USOC, which began in February of 1997, CCCAC has endorsed Senator Bennett's bill as one of two programs it will support for 2002.

Seventy-four members of the Senate, including Sen. Orrin Hatch, are cosponsors of the Bennett legislation. It will be considered before the Senate Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee of which Senator Bennett is a member. A companion bill, sponsored by Rep. Merrill Cook, is currently pending in the House of Representatives.

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<http://www.senate.gov/~bennett>